

**Family & Friends..... January 26, 2022**

On September 19, 1945, missionary Darlene Deibler was liberated from the Japanese Prison Camp at Kampili, seventeen days after Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri. Darlene had been subjected to years of physical suffering and mental torture. She was returning home a widow at the age of 28, after losing her husband, Russell. She had not one single possession to her name, no mementos, or keepsakes. Her body was debilitated by exhaustion, starvation, malaria, beriberi, and dysentery. For four years she had witnessed atrocities that can scarcely be described. She prayed a bitter prayer as she left the island prison, "Lord, I'll never come to these islands again. They robbed me of everything that was most dear to me." Suddenly she heard voices, Indonesian voices ringing from the distance. There on the shore were those who had come to know the Lord through her mission, raising their voices, "God Be with You till We Meet Again." She later wrote "this song released the waters of bitterness that flooded my soul and the hurt began to drain from me as my tears flowed in a steady stream. The healing began and I knew I would go back to these people and my island home." This beautiful hymn was written by Jeremiah Rankin. He wrote this song, he said, after discovering that the term "good-bye" meant "God Be with You." God is love!

*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. John 14:1*

God bless our visitors: David & Sarah Ellison (Fayetteville), Alyce Johansen (Centerton), Phillip & Hollie Strickhausen (Bella Vista), Corbin Mabry and Ally Arguello.

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to John Hays and family in the loss of his father. Keep John and family in your prayers. Sue Gartrell got good news from her surgery, she does not have cancer and will be going home soon. Millie Boothe will have a procedure on her back this week and needs our prayers. Continue to remember and pray for Alex Thompson in the loss of his cousin, Melanie, Nancy Cash, Terry Balentine, Susan Duffy, Doug Klingman, Bob & Pat Musson, Aaron Sloan, Pam Bertschy, Donna Rowland, Marg Kahler, Bob Douthit, Ramin Salimi, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the virus.

Items for Children's Home: beef & chicken broth, carrots, corn, crackers, vinegar, and liquid dish soap. For Our Jan. Food Pantry: mayo, ketchup, mustard, peanut butter, honey, jelly, salad dressing, hot sauce, taco sauce, canned chicken, tuna, and Spam.

Faith is the radar that sees through the fog. by Corrie Ten Boom. Love you, stay safe, and good-bye!

*Karen*

**Bella Vista  
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40  
989 NW McNelly Road  
Bentonville, AR 72712

**Return Service Requested**

<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

[www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com](http://www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com)

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439  
Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379  
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott Robert Horton  
Randall Hunt Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

**MINISTERS**

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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**Bella Vista**

**MEMBER**

**Community**

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)*

These familiar words from 1 Peter 2 speak of the status we enjoy as those who belong to Jesus. We are chosen, royal, holy, people of light who belong to God. What a thought! We read these words and are humbled and grateful that we can be thought of in this way. We may read these words and think about how God sees us individually. Think of it, "I am chosen. I am royalty. I am holy, belonging to God." That is the case, but there is more. This passage is not only about our individual status before God. It is also about being part of something much bigger. The words, race, priesthood, nation, and people tell us that we are a part of a collective group, a community.

The words that Peter writes to encourage his readers remind us of the words God spoke to the Israelites after delivering them from Egypt and bringing them to Mount Sinai. *"You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.* (Exodus 19:4-6)

Despite our society's focus on individuality and individual freedom, this reminds us that being part of the people of God means being part of a community of believers. As a community, we have obligations to one another.



**Community means setting aside our personal preferences for the good of others.** To a church that seems to have been moving toward division, Paul writes, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4) Understanding that we are a part of a community is the antidote to a consumerist view of Christianity that tends to view the church as an entity that is meant to cater to our individual preferences.

**Community means we can trust one another.** One of the first things God did after bringing the Israelites to Sinai was to give them the Ten Commandments. The last five of those commandments instructed the people of God in how they were to live with one another as a community. Think about it. The Israelites would be wandering in the desert for forty years. If they were going to murder someone, it would have most likely been someone from their own people. Adultery would have been committed against a fellow Israelite, as would have theft or bearing false witness. The tenth commandment specifically mentions neighbors in the prohibition against coveting. The law was meant to mold Israel into people of integrity. Community requires us to be people whom others can trust. We need to be able to have difficult conversations, share our struggles, and even confess our failings without worrying about what others will do with that information.

**Community requires effort.** Being part of the community of believers will require that we invest our time in getting to know one another. All relationships require this kind of investment. We need to be together to pray with one another, to study together, to serve together. We need to find our place in the community and put our unique talents to use for the good of the Kingdom. It will cost us time. It may push us out of our comfort zones. It may be inconvenient to us. But the investment is absolutely worth it.

Christianity is not just about our individual relationships with God. It is God calling together a people, a priesthood, a kingdom to love, to serve, and care for one another and to show the world around us the love of Christ. May God continue to bless us as we carry out the work of being his called out people.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Family and Fellowship

We look at the Jerusalem church and wonder, how did they do it? Having all things in common, giving, working, soul winning, teaching, worshipping together in a pure unbroken fellowship.

Maintaining such an intimate family fellowship is never easy. Sometimes we look at Acts 2:42 through rose-colored glasses and wish our churches had what they had. It didn't last. We only have to move to Acts chapter six to know that Satan hates fellowship. He is constantly at work trying to disrupt our spiritual family. But Apostolic wisdom overcame him in Acts six. Satan is at work again in the prejudice of Acts chapter ten. Peter had to learn what “fellowship” really included. In the case of Paul and John Mark we see that fellowship does not demand total agreement on all issues.

Maintaining family fellowship does demand:

**Tolerance.** Let's give one another a little room for growth, maturity, time to overcome our failures, weaknesses, shortcomings, ignorance, and inconsistencies. “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgives you, and over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

**Understanding.** Before we become critical of one another, perhaps we would do well to walk a mile, one day, even a week where our brother or sister walks. Understanding is a discipline. It takes very little to criticize, but genuine Christian maturity takes Godly patience to be understanding. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

**Expectation.** Ever notice that the better we get to know others the more human they become? In a family we see one another as we truly are, warts and all sinners, saved by God's grace. Heaven is not promised to the sinless but to the forgiven. The church is not a trophy case, but a hospital for sinners. We must be realistic in our expectations of one another. “Confess your faults one to another and pray for one another.”

**We see the big picture.** The church of Jesus Christ is not on this earth to serve ME. Fellowship is a participation in serving God. In close examination of scripture we find that serving God is most often serving others. Those of the first century church understood this. They loved the brethren, fed the hungry, healed the sick, cared for the widows and orphans, and preached to the lost. We must stop examining others, forget our petty issues, and move forward in taking Jesus to the world and keeping the saved together in the family.

May we accept the challenge to live what we sing:

*“We're part of the family  
That's been born again  
Part of the family  
Whose love knows no end  
For Jesus has saved us  
And made us His own  
Now we're part of the family  
That's on its way home.”*

Amen?

-RANDALL CASELMAN

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 1/30/22			
First Service			
Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Roger Arnold	Song Leader .....	Anthony Christiano
Greeters .....	Joe Hott, Chris Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Randall Hunt
		Closing Prayer.....	Chad Dobbs
		Nursery Workers .....	Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker
Second Service			
Welcome, Prayer & Scripture.....	Mike Spencer	Song Leader .....	Lee McCain
Greeters .....	John Bowman, Don Cope	Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Tom Verkler
		Closing Prayer.....	Perry Johnson
Nursery Workers.....	Barbara Orr, Cammy Jo McCain	Van Driver .....	Mark/Wilma Bagwell
January Worship Coordinators			
Worship Coordinator .....	Mark Tucker	Streaming Coordinator .....	Abby Willis
Audio Coordinator .....	Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator .....	Aaron Bagwell